



# Convoy 678N Engagement

Green Tab AAR





# 1075<sup>th</sup> Medium Truck

## M915





# “Heavy Lift” Contract

## “White Trucks”







# "Heavy Lift" Contract Drivers







# 518<sup>th</sup> Gun Truck Company



Level 2 HMMWV Gun Trucks Escorts





# 617<sup>th</sup> MP Co

## Shadowing AFEES Convoy





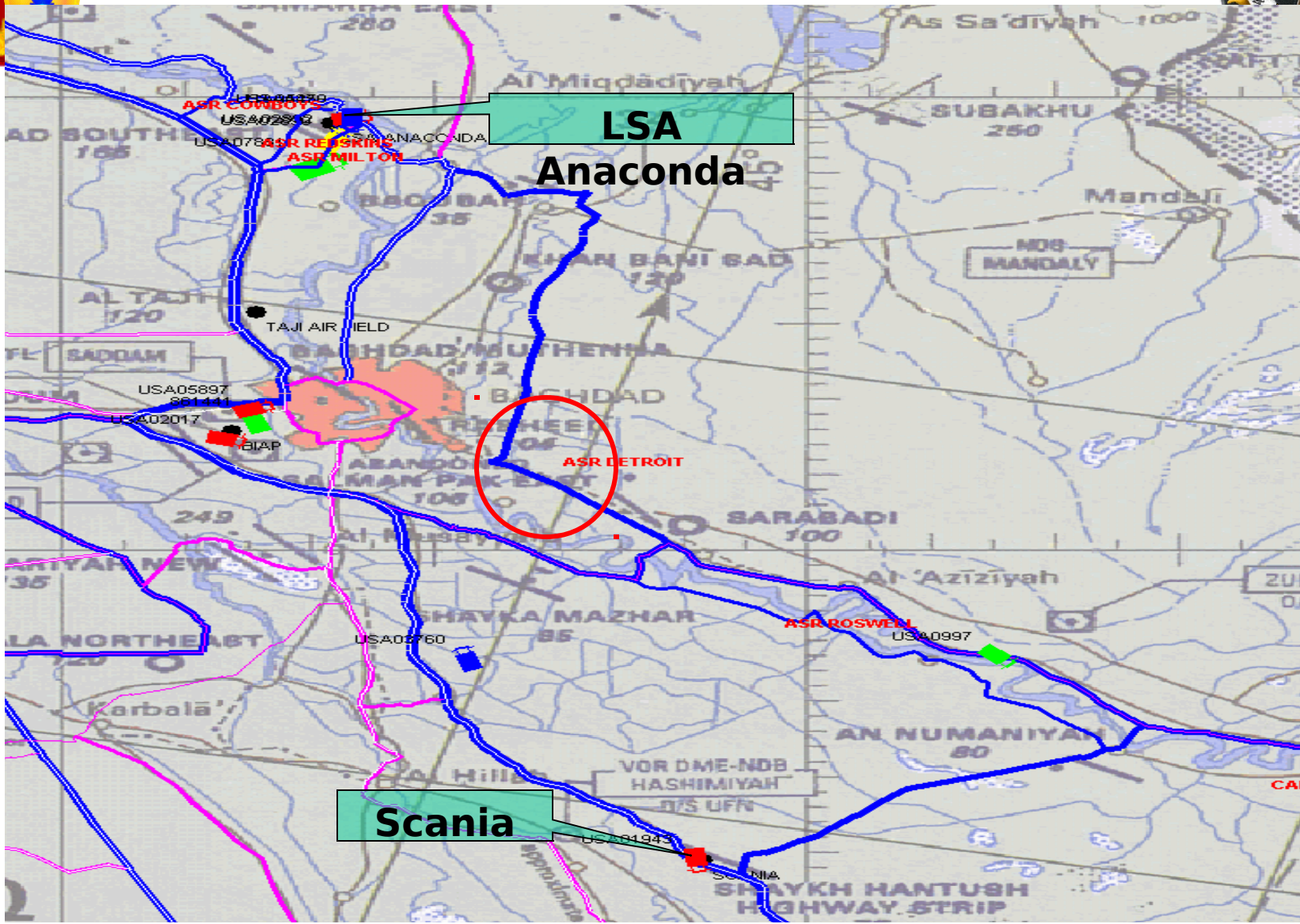


# Enemy Situation



Estimated forty to fifty insurgents set up a complex ambush to cause US casualties with the possible intent to capture US Forces. The ambush included:

- Heavy small arms fire from hasty positions
  - Armor-piercing rounds and sniper weapons augmented attack
- An IED placed in the road median
- Road obstacles
  - A SUV blocked road
  - Median contained a mud ditch which fixed convoy
- Accurate indirect RPG fire, to include the use of the OG7V, with direct hits to trucks
- A ground assault by 10-15 insurgents
- Insurgents captured were carrying handcuffs
- **Enemy Losses**
  - 26 killed in ambush
  - 7 wounded and 1 unwounded insurgent captured
  - US Forces found 6 RPGs, 16 Rockets, 15 Machine Guns, 22 Assault Rifles, more than 2,900 rounds and 40 hand grenades



**LSA**  
**Anaconda**

**Scania**

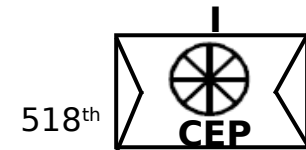
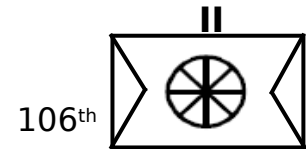




# Background



- Mission: 1075<sup>th</sup> TC CO executes Iraqi Express mission to Theater Distribution Center at LSA Anaconda 20 March 2005.
- Convoy Organization:
  - Convoy Commander SSG Uhl (1075<sup>th</sup>)
    - 6 x M915/872s
    - 2 x M915 bobtails
    - 3 HMMWV Convoy Escort Platforms
    - 20 x IAP Tractor-Trailer Systems
    - 2 x IAP bobtails
  - 518<sup>th</sup> Convoy Escort Company (P) escort SSG Vanroeckel (Call Sign Regulator)
    - 3 HMMWV Convoy Escort Platforms
- Chronology
  - 19 March: Convoy picks up loads at TDC and arrives at Scania
  - 20 March: Convoy departs Scania enroute to LSAA via ASR Kiev/Bismark
    - 1125: Ambush Begins
    - 1210: Enemy Neutralized





# Battle Chronology

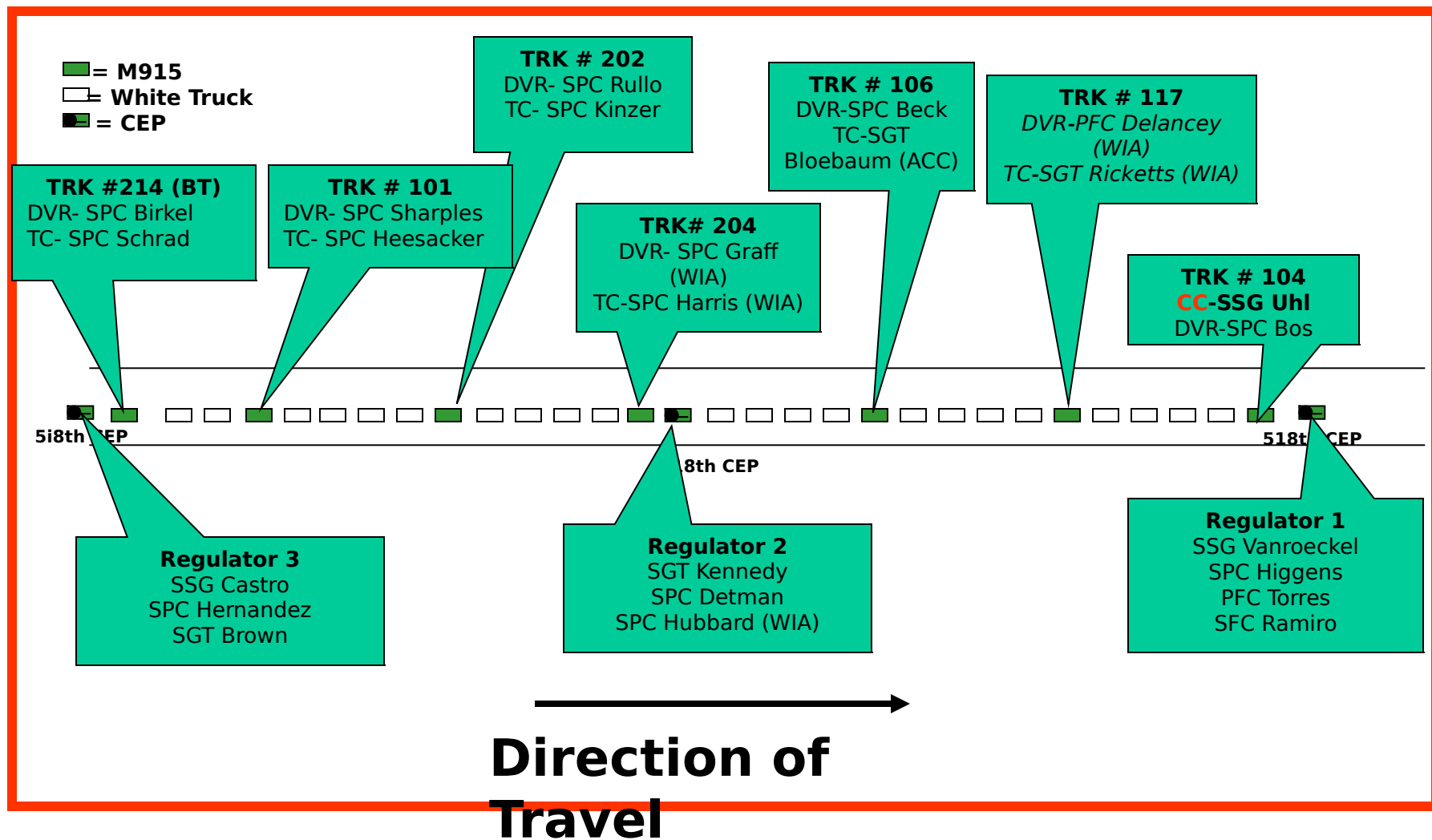


- Convoy Schematic Diagram
- Battlefield sketches
  - Initial Activity
  - Lead Vehicle Advances
  - Bus IED'd
  - CEP moves into Kill Zone
  - Rear of convoy under attack
  - CEP withdrawal
  - RPG Grenade Attack
  - Trucks begin exiting kill zone
  - CEP Advance
  - Convoy receives fire from right side
  - Casualties moved
  - Video clip of casualty being moved
  - KYNG Soldier Recovery
  - Casualty recovery
  - Convoy moves out
  - AT4 fired
  - Ground Assault
  - KYNG Soldier evacuated
  - SPC Hubbard evacuated
- Pictures





# 1075<sup>th</sup> Convoy Schematic Diagram



# AAFES Convoy Hit in Southbound Lane







# Lead Vehicle Advances



X = Dismounted Enemy

■ = M915

□ = White Truck

■ = Gun Truck

■ = Civilian Vehicle

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Warehouse

Warehouse

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Power Plant

Two Story House

-A SUV from the southbound lane attempts to block Trk #104

-Trk 104 spins the SUV and leaves the killzone without any whites following

Truck #104

DRV-SPC Bos

TC-SSG Uhl (CC)



# Bus IED'd



**X = Dismounted Enemy**

**■ = M915**

**□ = White Truck**

**■ = Gun Truck**

**■ = Civilian Vehicle**

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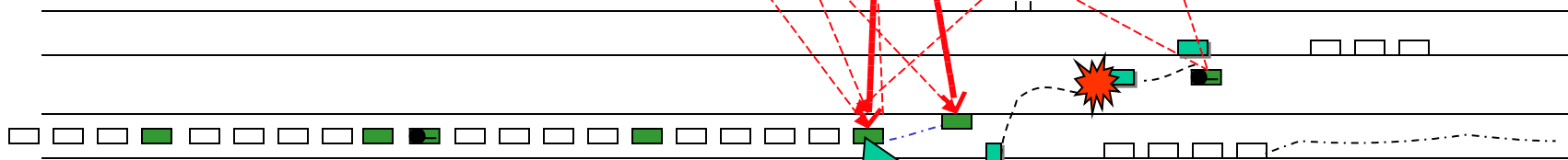
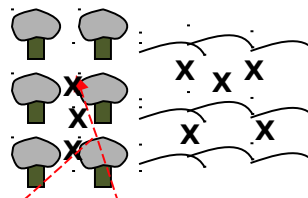
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-AAFES Bus IED'd, lands in front of truck 117

-Truck 117 swerves to miss bus and gets stuck

-SGT Ricketts shot in leg shortly after truck gets stuck

Two Story House



**Trk 117**  
SGT Ricketts  
PFC Delancey



# AAFES Bus Tried to Clear Kill Zone Hit by an IED





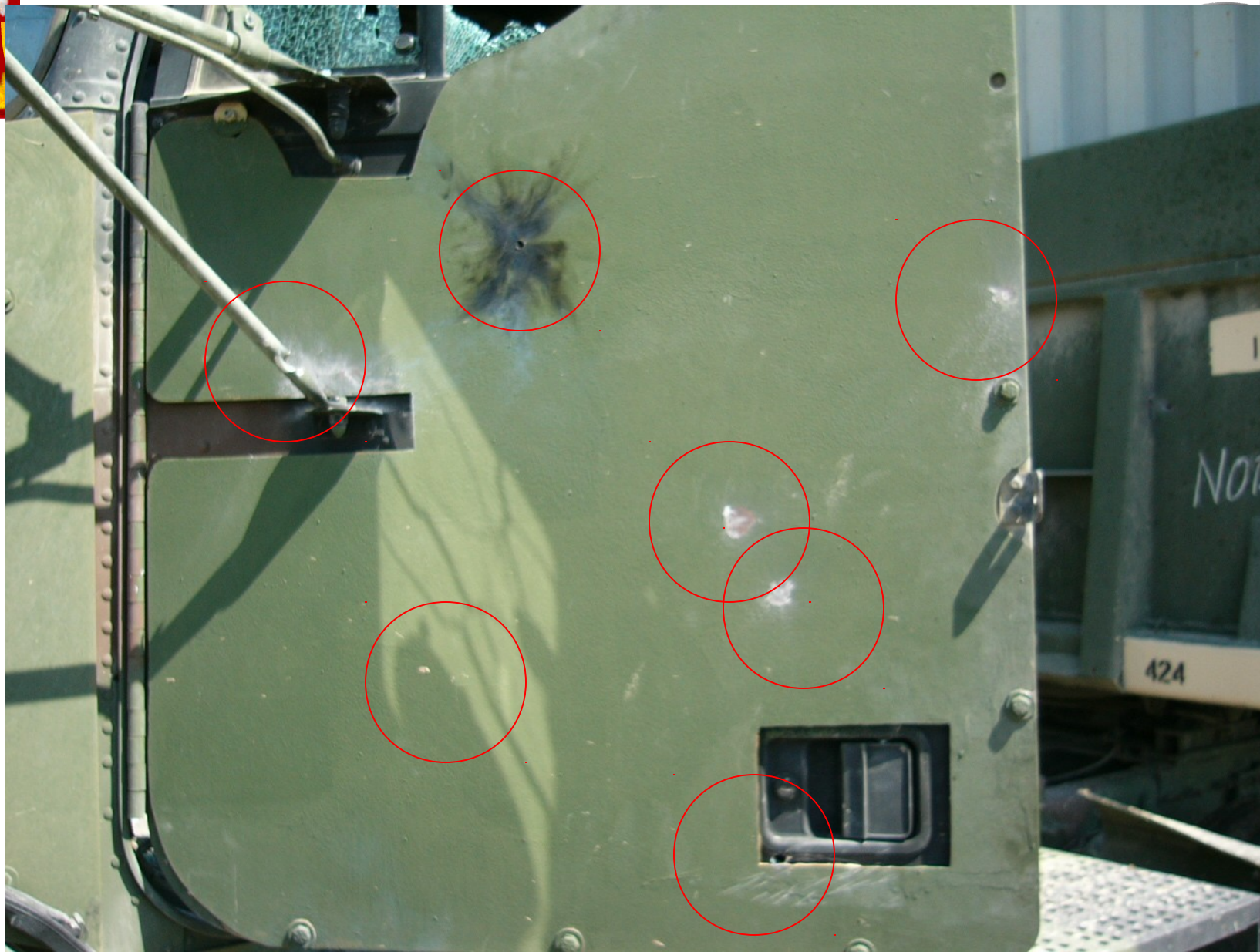


# Ricketts is Wounded in Leg













# Northbound Convoy Blocked





# Initial Activity



X = Dismounted Enemy

■ = M915

□ = White Truck

■ = Gun Truck

■ = Civilian Vehicle

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Two Story House

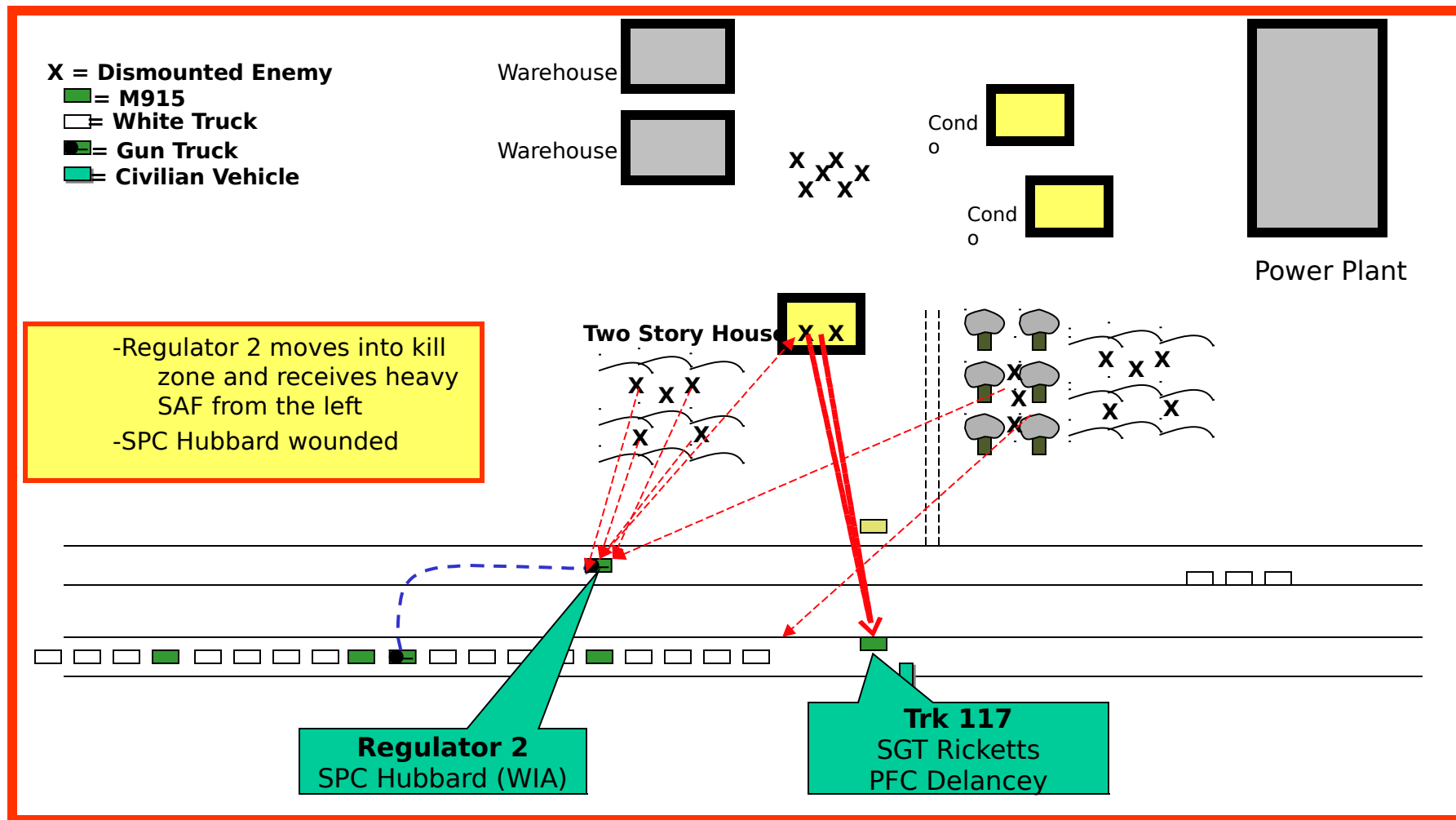
- Regulator 1 receives gunfire from the left
- Trk #104 pulls around Regulator 1 to get out of kill zone

Truck #104

Regulator 1



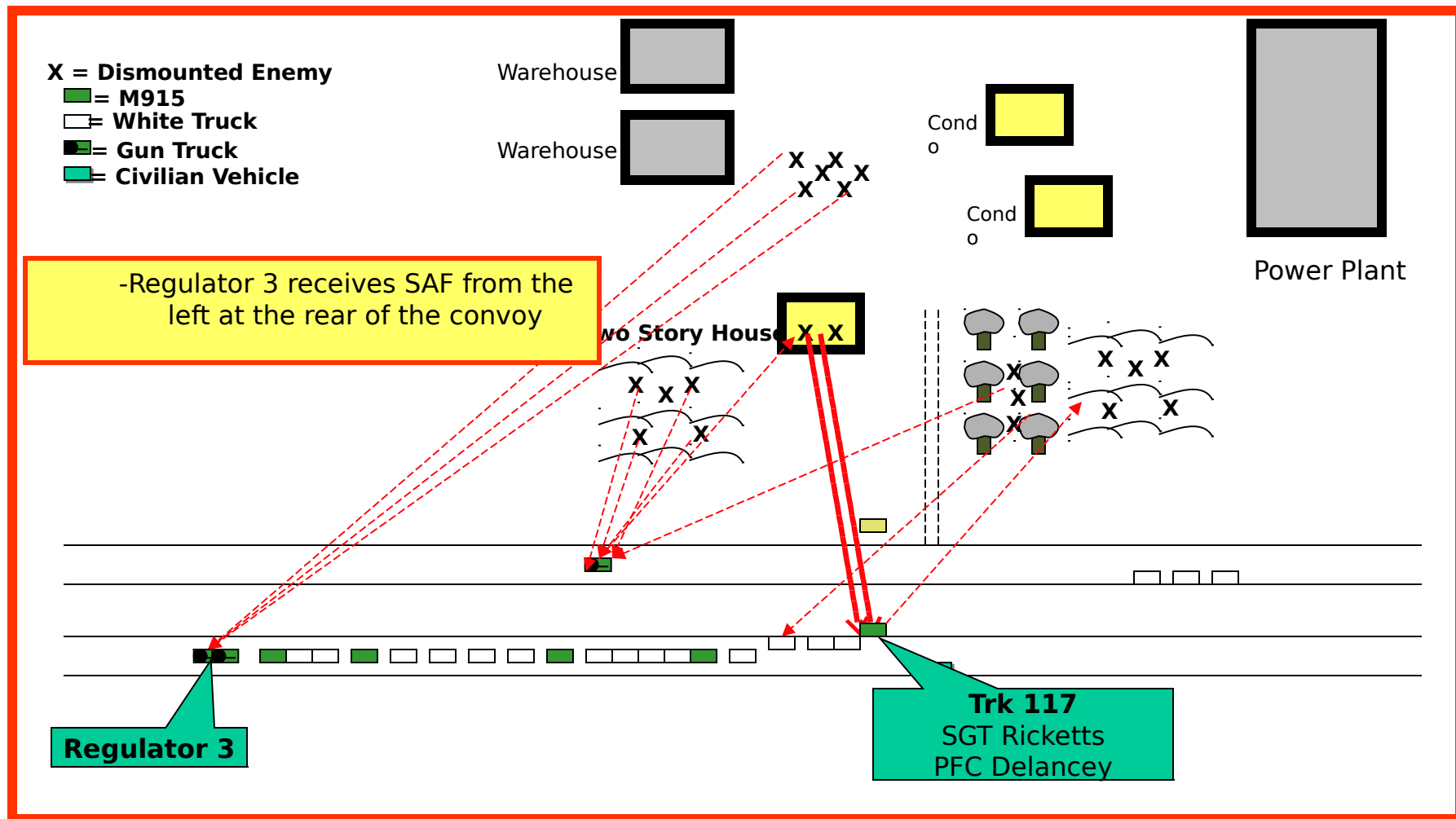
# CEP moves into Kill zone

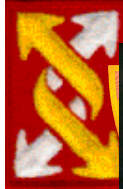




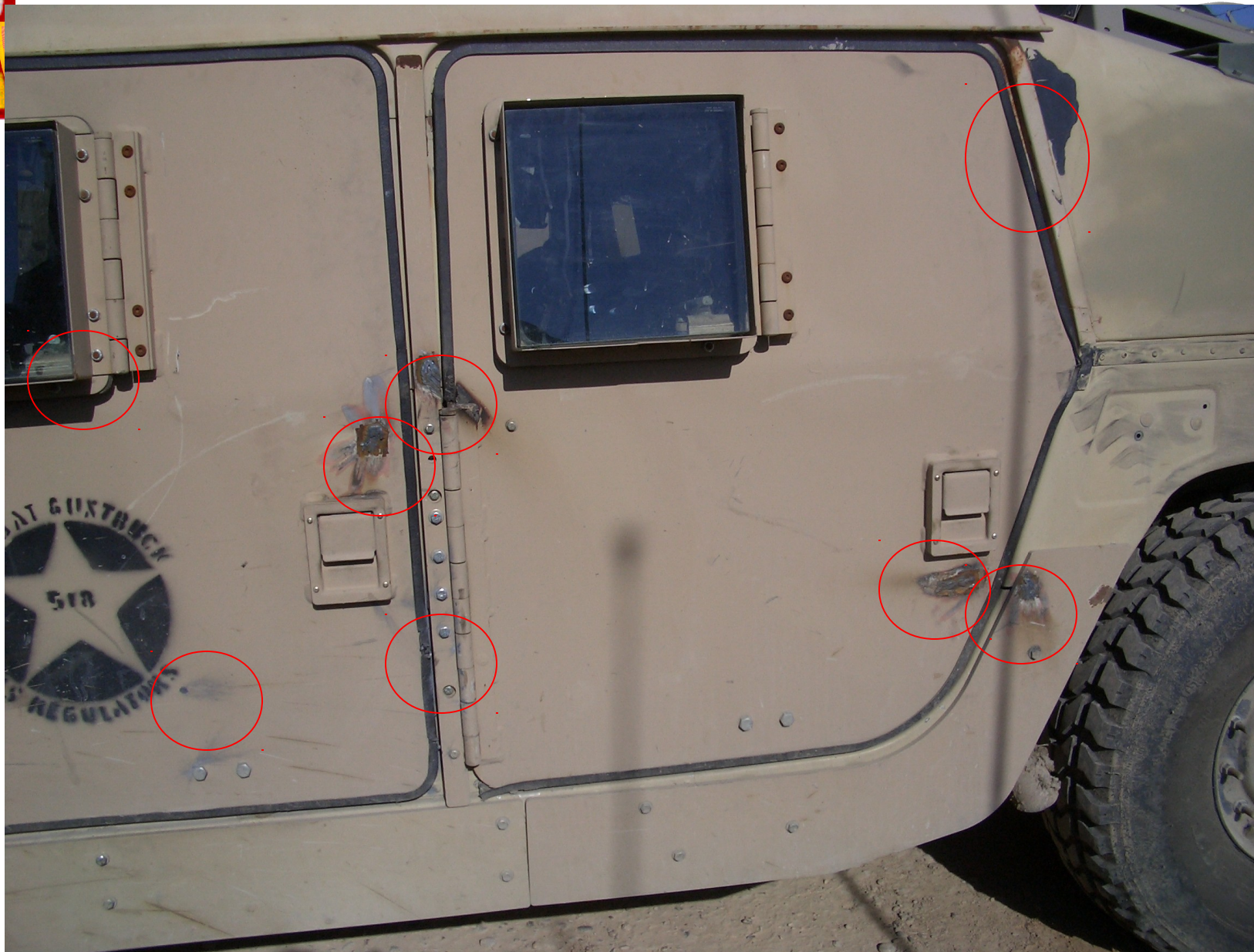


# Rear of convoy under attack













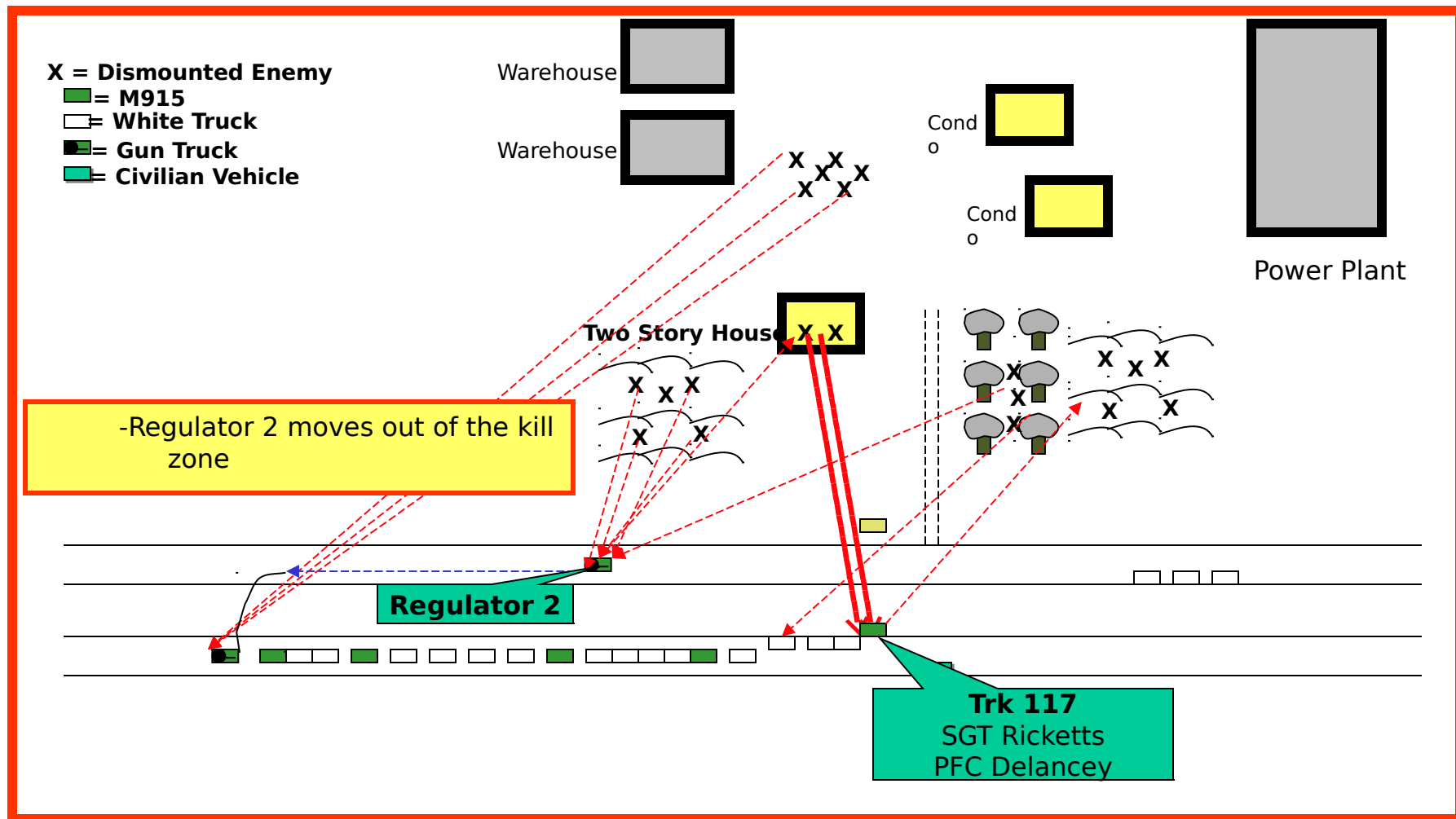
# Fire Extinguisher

“Regulator 2”



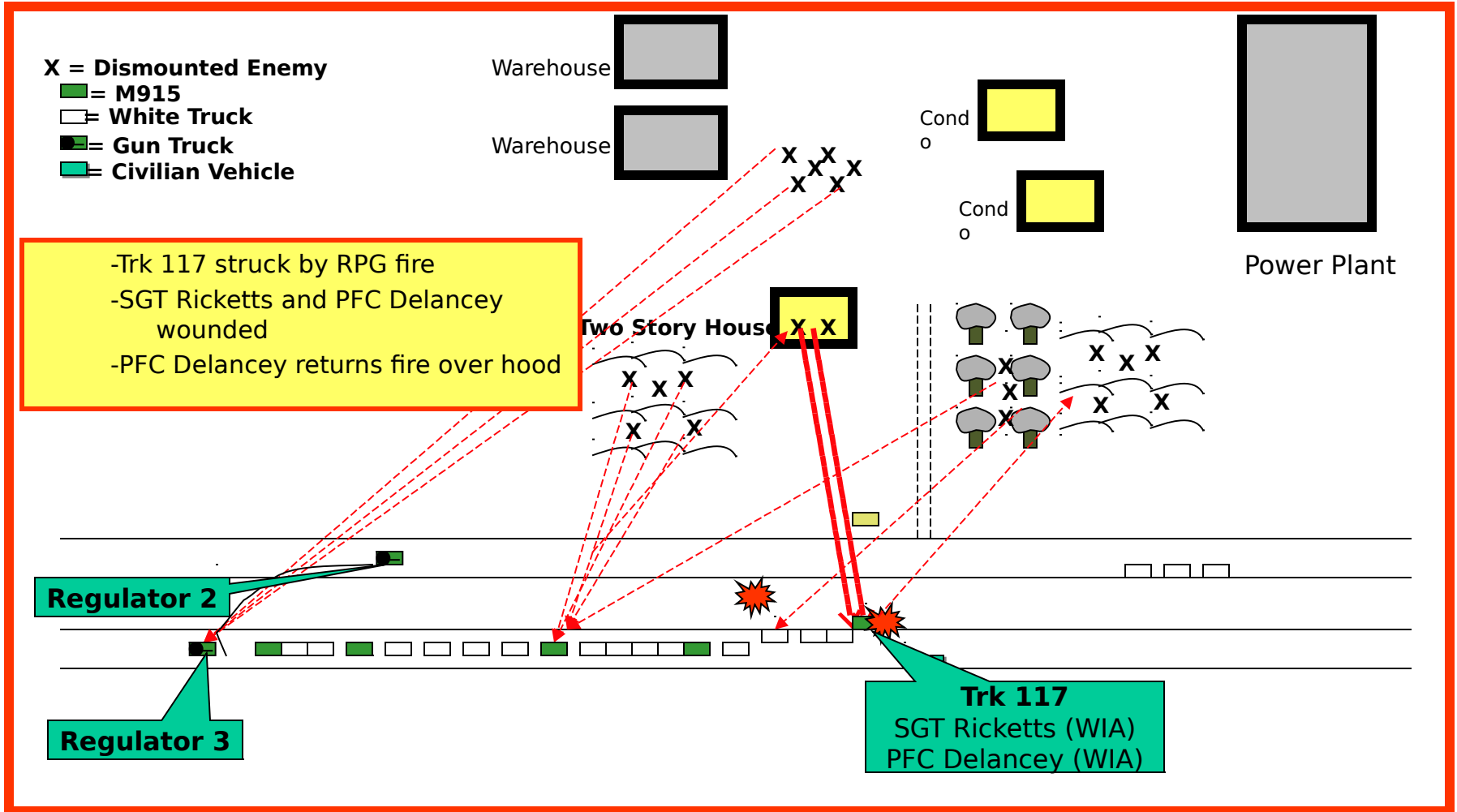


# CEP withdrawal





# Truck hit by RPG fire







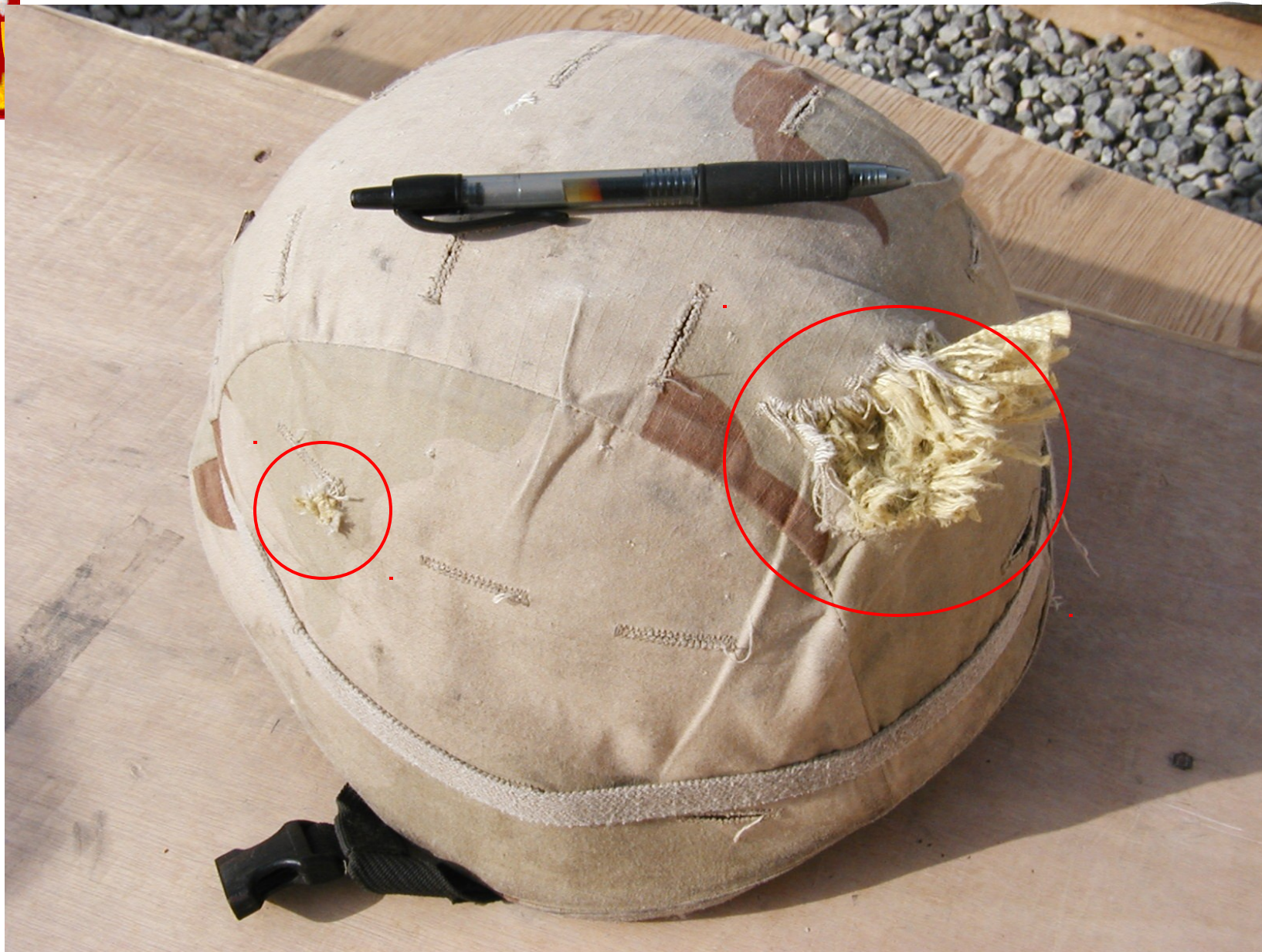
# RPG Hit Passenger Side of Ricketts' Truck







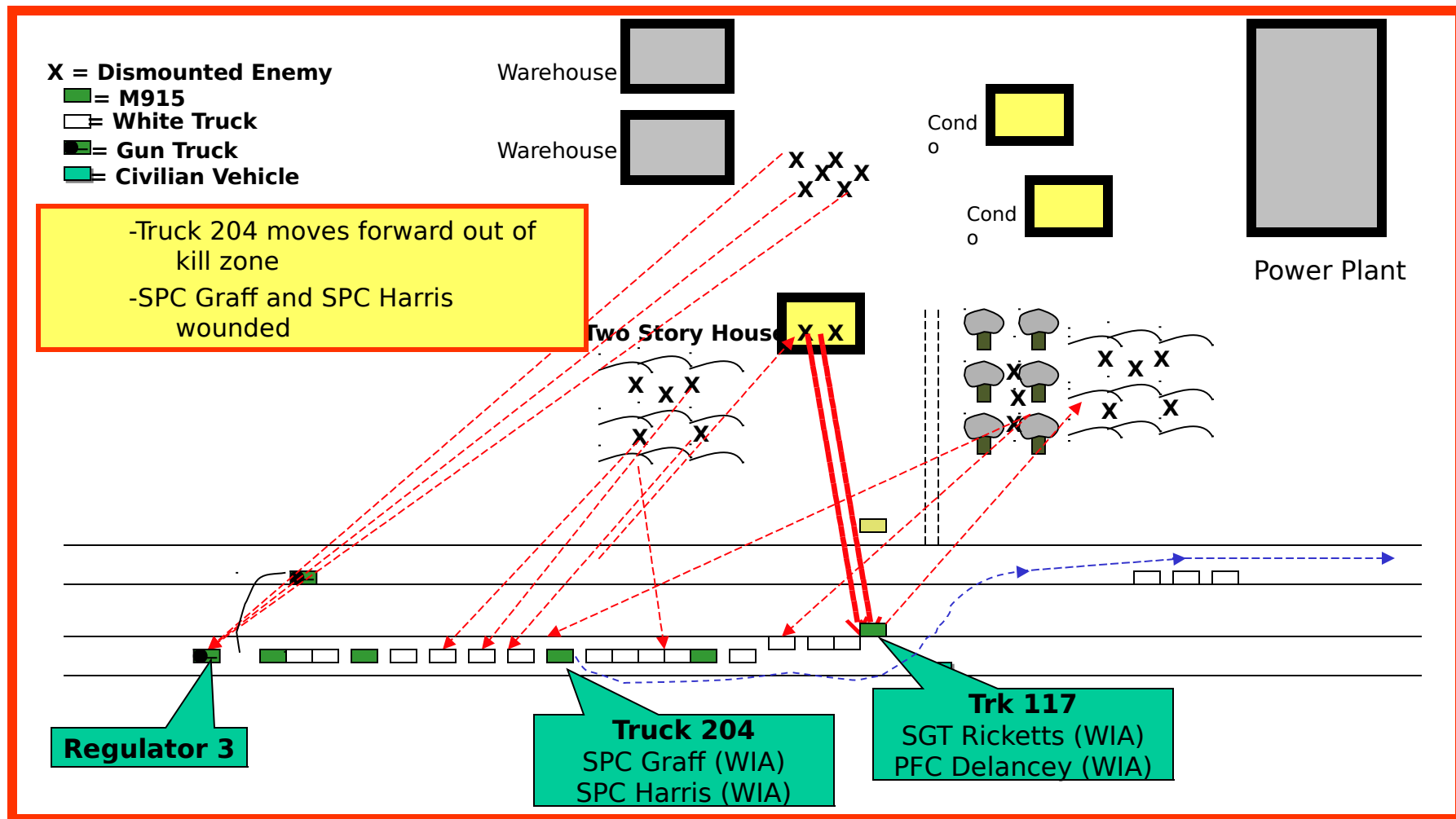








# Trucks move out of kill zone





# CEP Advance

**X = Dismounted Enemy**

**■ = M915**

**□ = White Truck**

**■ = Gun Truck**

**■ = Civilian Vehicle**

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Warehouse

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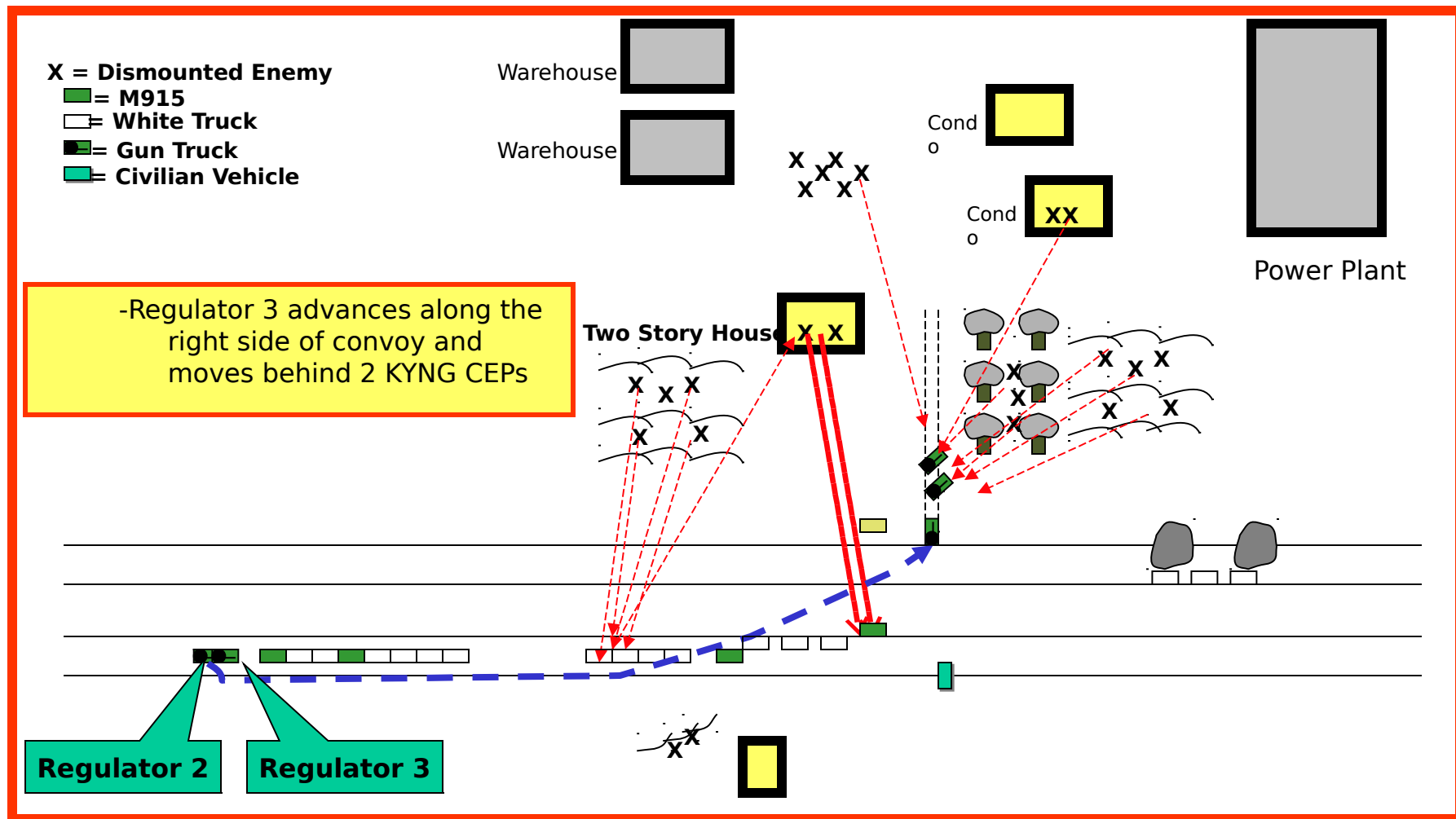
Power Plant

-Regulator 3 advances along the right side of convoy and moves behind 2 KYNG CEPs

Two Story House

Regulator 2

Regulator 3





# 617<sup>th</sup> MPs Had Turned Down Access Road





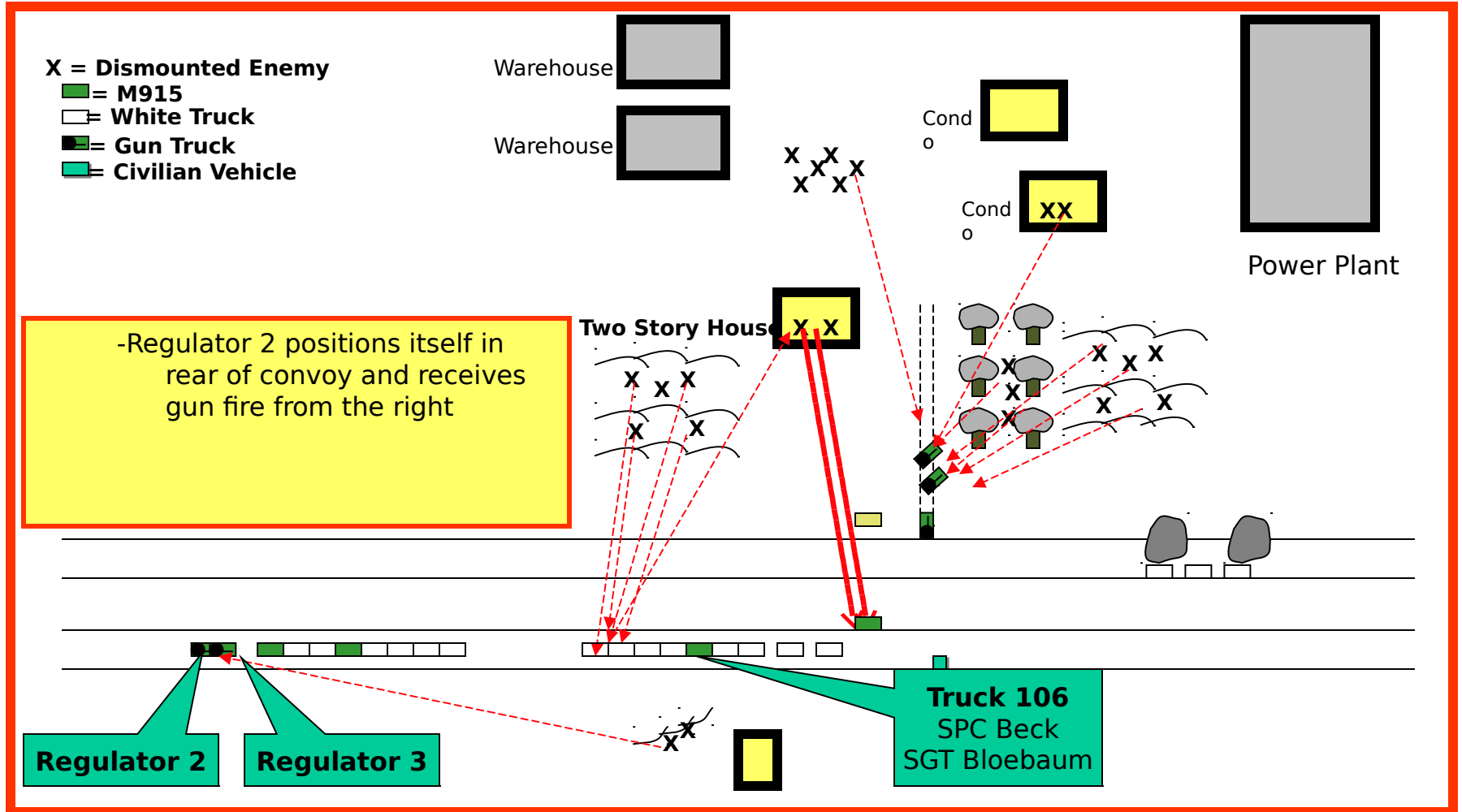


# Found Egress Vehicles





# Convoy engaged from the right











# Casualties moved

**X = Dismounted Enemy**

**■ = M915**

**□ = White Truck**

**■ = Gun Truck**

**■ = Civilian Vehicle**

-Ron Hart pulls his truck next to Trk 117 and assesses situation

-Trk 106 pulls next to Ron Hart's Truck, SPC Beck dismounts and moves SGT Ricketts

-Trk 106, Trk 202, and a few white trucks leave the kill zone

Warehouse

Warehouse

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Power Plant

Two Story House

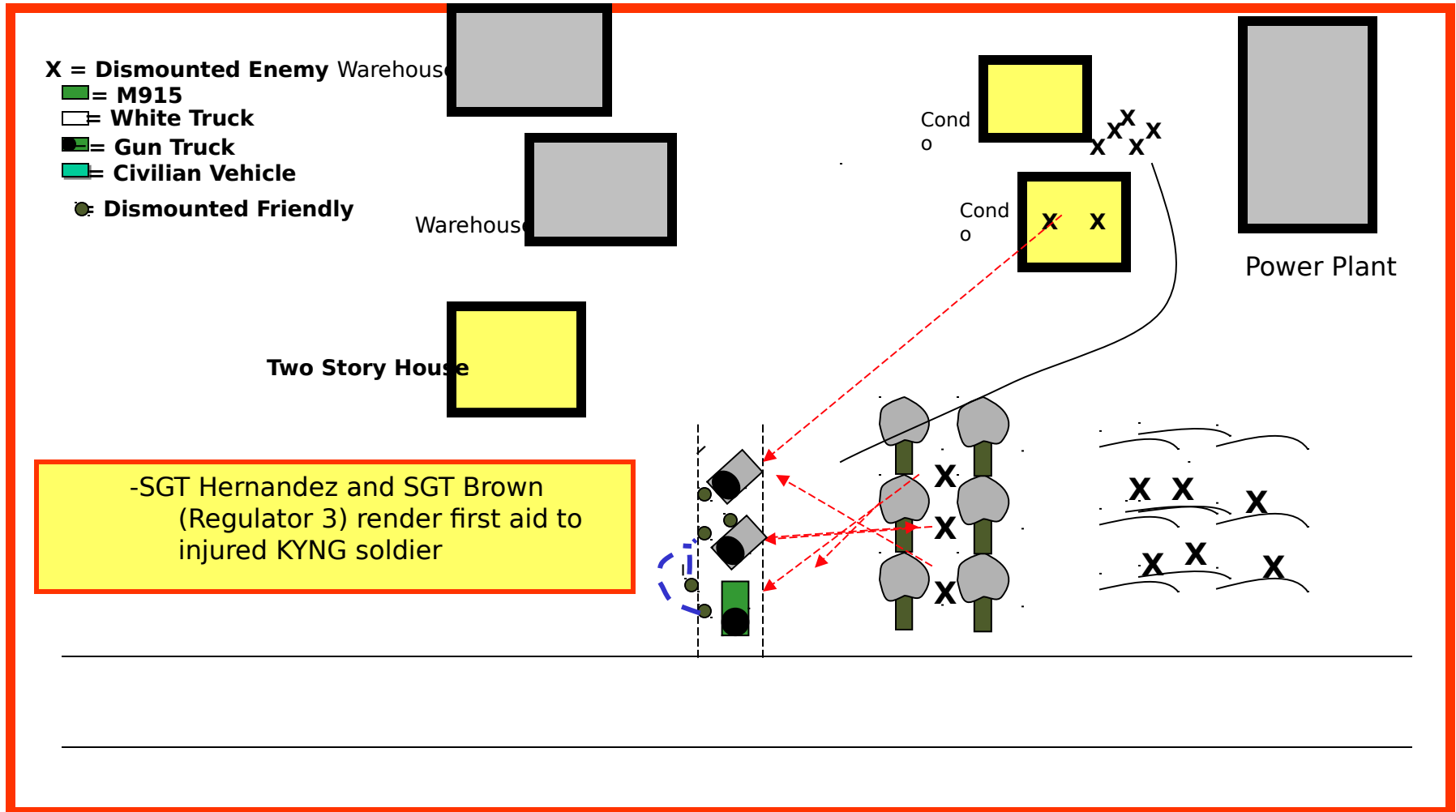
Regulator 2

TRK # 202  
DVR- SPC Rullo  
TC- SPC Kinzer

Truck 106  
SPC Beck  
SGT Bloebaum



# KYNG Soldier recovery





# 617<sup>th</sup> MP CPP







# 617<sup>th</sup> MP CPP

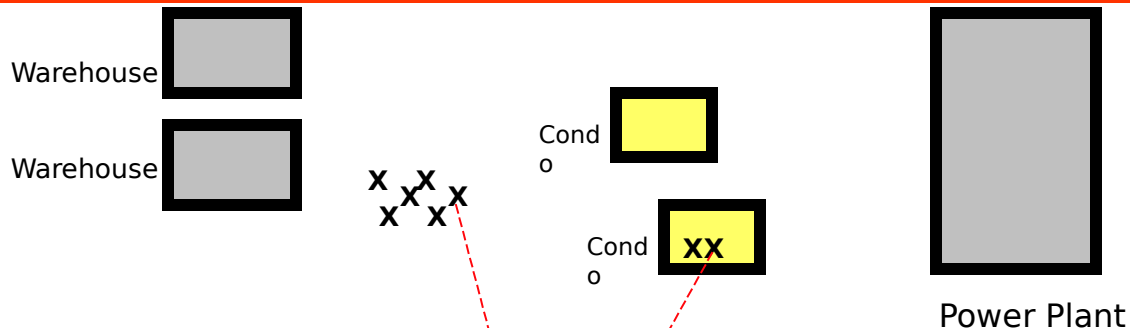




# Casualty Recovery



- X = Dismounted Enemy
- = M915
- = White Truck
- = Gun Truck
- = Civilian Vehicle
- = Dismounted Friendly



-SPC Schrad and Regulator 2 neutralize enemy position as SPC Birkel and SPC Sharples run to front of convoy under fire and places SGT Ricketts in Ron Hart's truck

Regulator 2

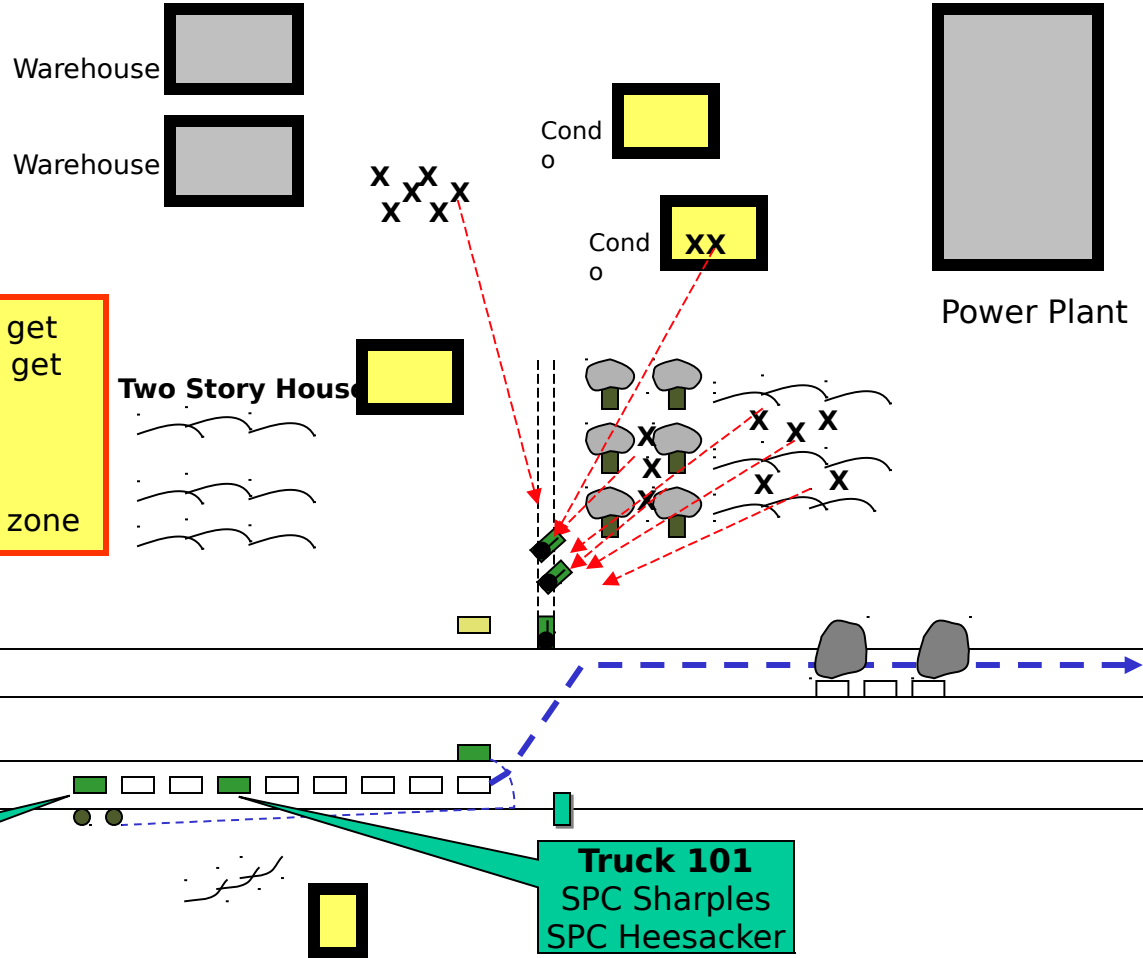
Truck 214  
SPC Schrad  
SPC Birkel

Truck 101  
SPC Sharples  
SPC Heesacker



# Convoy Moves Out

- X = Dismounted Enemy**  
**■ = M915**  
**□ = White Truck**  
**■ = Gun Truck**  
**■ = Civilian Vehicle**  
**● = Dismounted Friendly**







# AT4 fired

X = Dismounted Enemy Warehouse

■ = M915

□ = White Truck

■ = Gun Truck

■ = Civilian Vehicle

● = Dismounted Friendly

Warehouse

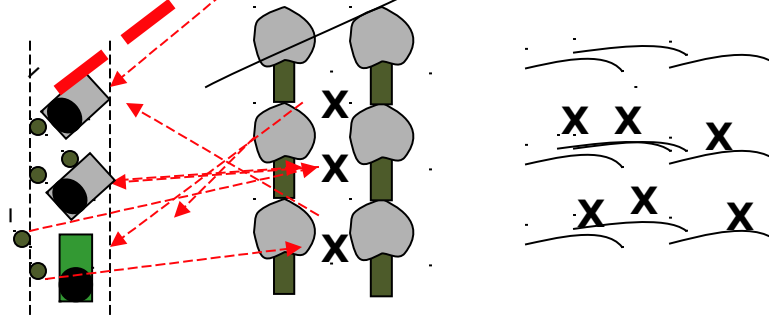
Two Story House

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Power Plant

- After rendering aid to injured KYNG soldier, SGT Hernandez and SGT Brown take defensive positions
- KYNG soldier fires AT4, neutralizing enemy position in building





# Ground Assault



X = Dismounted Enemy Warehouse

■ = M915

□ = White Truck

■ = Gun Truck

■ = Civilian Vehicle

● = Dismounted Friendly

Warehouse

Two Story House

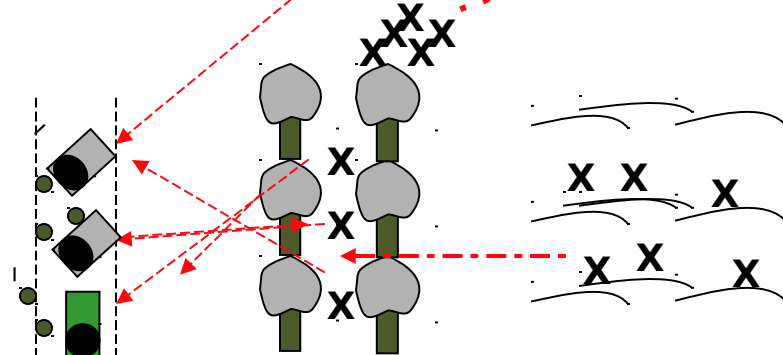
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Power Plant

- Ten to fifteen insurgents charge CEPs but are repelled by dismounted soldiers

-SGT Brown is base of fire of counter-ambush with a M249 SAW





# Captured Enemy Weapons







# KYNG Soldier Evacuated



X = Dismounted Enemy

■ = M915

□ = White Truck

■ = Gun Truck

■ = Civilian Vehicle

● = Dismounted Friendly

-SGT Hernandez drives KYNG CEP with injured soldier to South CCP and returns to area

Warehouse

Warehouse

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Power Plant

Two Story House

Regulator 3

Regulator 2



# SPC Hubbard Evacuated



X = Dismounted Enemy

■ = M915

□ = White Truck

■ = Gun Truck

■ = Civilian Vehicle

● = Dismounted Friendly

Warehouse

Warehouse

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XX

Power Plant

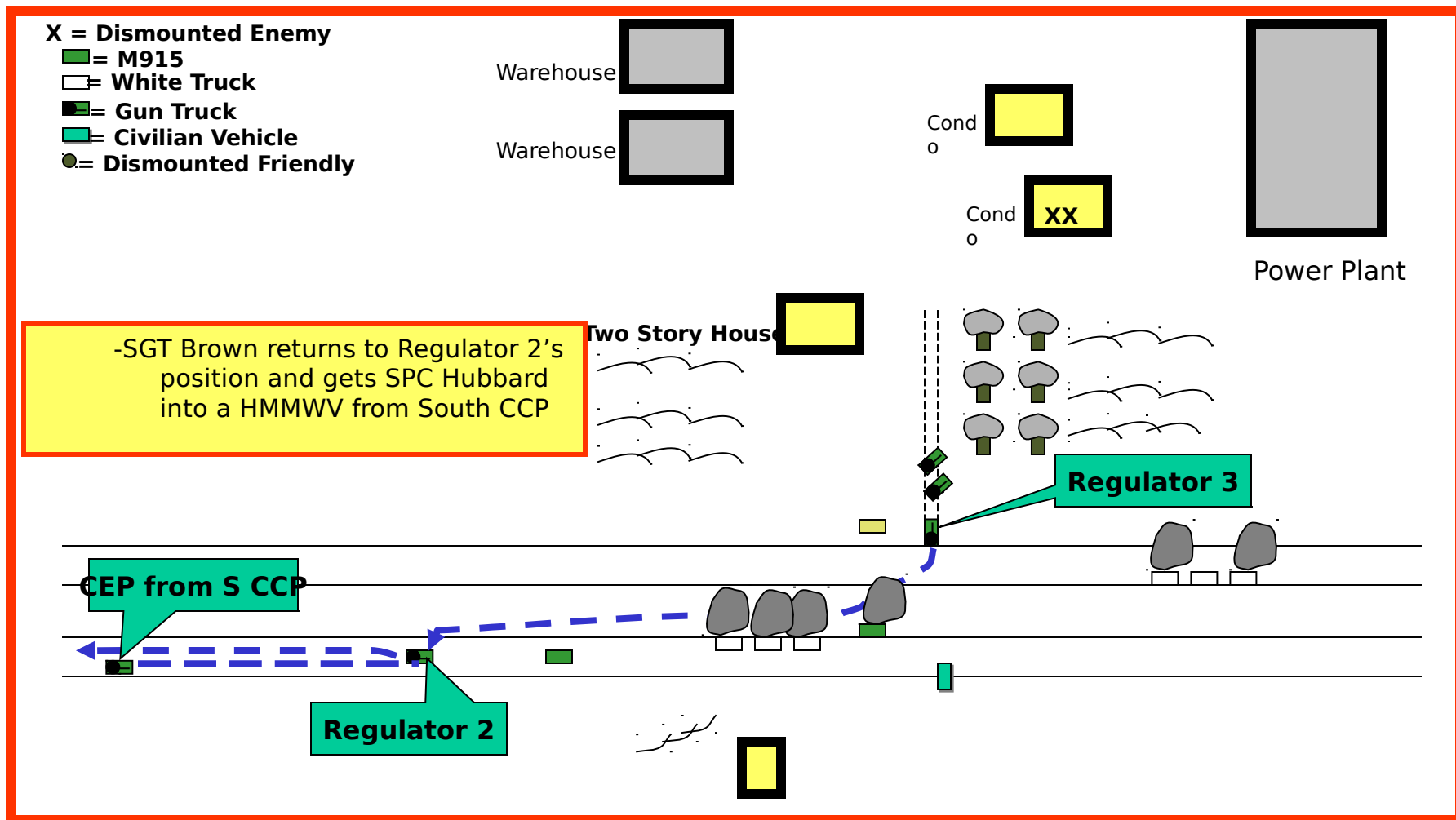
-SGT Brown returns to Regulator 2's position and gets SPC Hubbard into a HMMWV from South CCP

Two Story House

Regulator 3

CEP from S CCP

Regulator 2





# Consolidation and Reorganization



- X = Dismounted Enemy
- = M915
- = White Truck
- = Gun Truck
- = Civilian Vehicle
- = Dismounted Friendly

- SGT Hernandez rejoins Regulator 3 at attack site
- Regulator 2 and 3 move out of killzone and meet up with convoy at North CCP
- Remaining portion of convoy rolls out of kill zone

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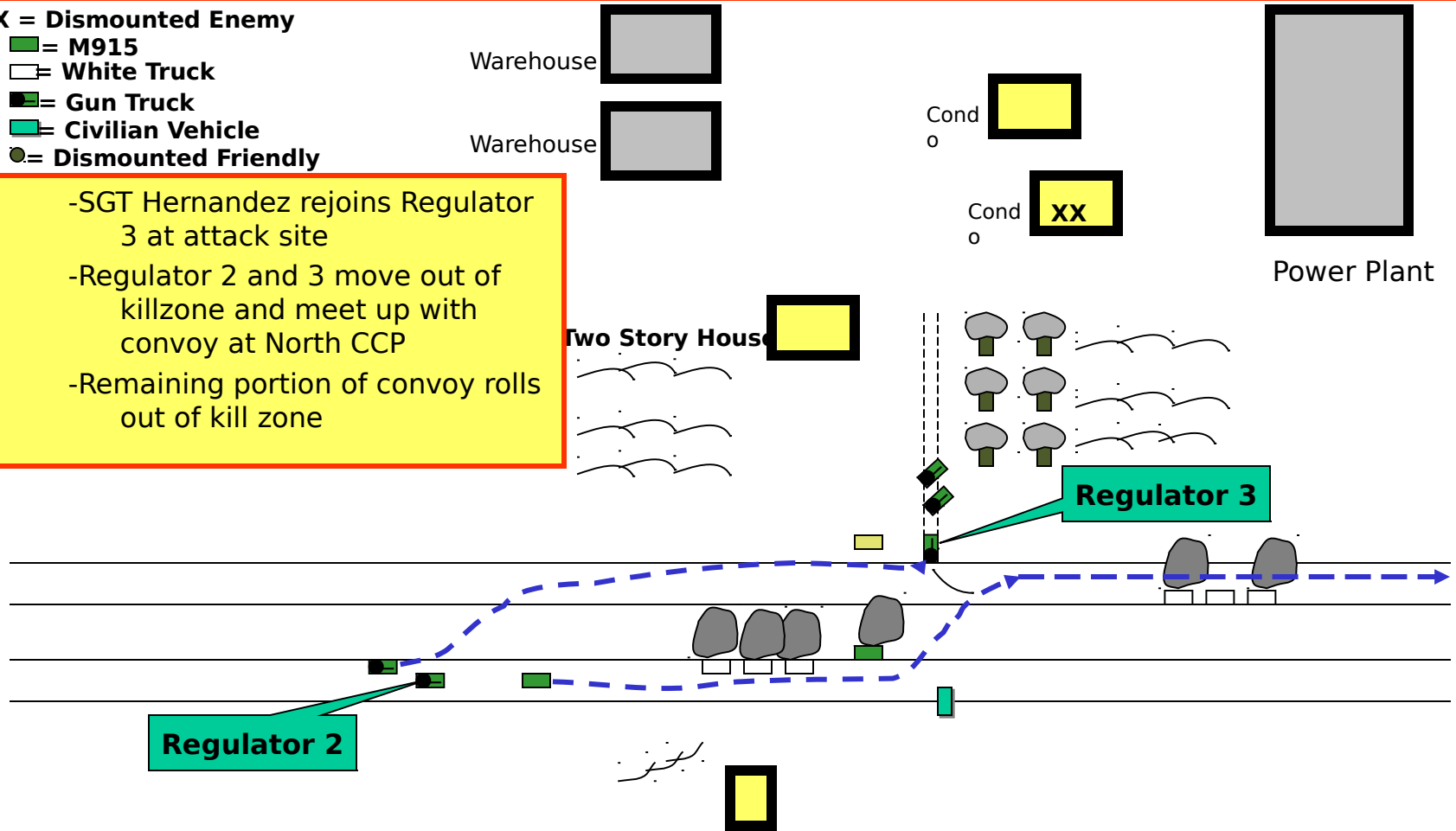
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Power Plant

Two Story House

Regulator 3

Regulator 2







# Key Convoy Personnel



- SSG Uhl (Convoy Commander)
  - Lead convoy 2 miles out of kill zone and set up secure casualty collection point
- PFC Delancey
  - After being struck twice in the helmet by gun fire and RPG, provided suppressive fire in order to keep the gun fire off of his vehicle and his injured co-driver, inflicting 2-6 casualties on insurgents
- SPC Beck
  - Radioed to convoy commander advising him to stay out of kill zone, extracted SGT Ricketts from his truck, and pulled him to a covered position behind another truck while under fire
- SPC Birkel & SPC Sharples
  - Ran 300-400 meters to front of convoy while under fire to recover SGT Ricketts, lifted him into a white truck, got TCN and DoD drivers remounted and out of kill zone
- SGT Brown
  - Became base of fire with a M249 SAW against insurgent ground assault and developed plan to evacuate the wounded KYNG soldier
- SGT Hernandez
  - Applied first aid to wounded KYNG soldier, assisted in repelling the insurgent ground assault, and evacuated the wounded KYNG to the South CCP
- SPC Schrad
  - Provided suppressive fire along with the CEP positioned in the rear and neutralized enemy position, allowing for the recovery of SGT Ricketts



# Lessons Learned



- Crew-served weapon malfunctions
  - Discussion: During the firefight, the .50 Cal MGs repeatedly misfired, resulting in secondary weapons (mostly M16s) being used to suppress large numbers of entrenched enemy with limited effect
  - Recommendation: Designated areas where soldiers can test-fire their weapons would enable soldiers to identify and correct deficiencies prior to an engagement
- Lack of AT4s or Mk19s enabled entrenched enemy to suppress convoy movement
  - Discussion: The insurgents were effectively using cover, concealment, and hasty emplacements which small arms fire was not able to penetrate; they were also massing fires from emplacements which an AT4 or Mk19 would have been able to neutralize
  - Recommendation: Convoys need to have either an AT4 or a Mk19 mounted on CEPs
- Convoy Commanders in task vehicles
  - Discussion: Due to a vehicle becoming NMC at Scania, the convoy commander had to couple his bobtail to the NMC vehicle's load. During the firefight, the convoy commander could not move around the battlefield to assess the situation due to the lack of mobility of the M915 tractor-trailor system.
  - Recommendation: Convoy commanders need to have a dedicated command and control vehicle (preferably HMMWVs)
- Intelligence on enemy situation was poor
  - Discussion: The location of the ambush had seen enemy activity for the two days prior to this convoy rolling through. The soldiers were not prepared as they could have been had there been a thorough intelligence preparation of the battlefield
  - Recommendation: S2 briefs not only need to focus on what has happened but also need to give the convoy commanders a overview of what the enemy might do in a given area.

